

Loreto College



Crumlin Road

Newsletter

Summer 2019



FUN DAY 2019

Fun Day took place on May 15th and was full of the usual mix of Karaoke classics, smashing sumo contests, obstacle courses and races of all sorts out on the field alongside inter-year tug-o-war contests. There was great competition from students from all classes to take part in the annual students vs. teachers sporting contest, and this year, the sport of choice was rounders. Here are some joy filled images of the day of fun.



MONEY FOR I.T.

We are delighted to report that we have received funding from Griffith College for the purchase of new and refurbished computer equipment for our classrooms. A new set of laptops will be available for use alongside a tablet and we have also received the cheque below to contribute towards more IT equipment for our school.



PRIZEGIVING

The end of year is always a great reason to look back and celebrate all that has been achieved. Celebrations this year kicked off properly on May 17th as Prizegiving took place in our school concert hall. Chairperson of our Board of Management, Nuala Manion was our welcome guest to present awards for attendance, sporting achievement, academic achievement, school spirit and much more. Holly Keating (pictured above) and Caitlán Hayes were honoured with the Many Kinds of Excellence Awards which are sponsored by our Parents Association.



LORETO IN THE GREEN

The May good weather gave our school an opportunity to put on its best bright colours. So our caretaker Alan and TY students Chloe & Jodie Redmond, Megan Cochrane, Nicole Lydon and Nicole Smith, gave our



WELLBEING WEEK

Imagine if you came to school one morning and uplifting pop music was booming through the entrance, balloons were festively hung and a lollipop was waiting for you as you went to your locker.

Thanks to our student council, 4th and 5th years, this wonderful welcome opened Wellbeing week; the last week in March in Loreto Crumlin.



Events in this week reminded us to take time to look after our mental, physical and spiritual health. Teachers from the Religion, P.E. and S.P.H.E. departments and the school's Ember team organised a range of activities



that made us focus on the really important thing in life – ourselves and our wellbeing.

Each day, for ten minutes, we dropped everything to breathe. It was an opportunity to take a short moment out of our busy classes to breathe, take a break and listen to some beautiful relaxing music.

There was an eye opening presentation for Junior students on online wellbeing courtesy of Zeeko Cyber Safety. Seamus from Zeeko made students more aware of how their online activity affects themselves and others and the important steps to take if they encounter unwanted activity online.

There was so much going on. All 4th years participated in a two day Healthy Living Programme. A “Gratefulness Tree” was displayed on the corridor where everyone had an opportunity to note down what they are grateful for. There were healthy smoothies and snacks available in the Dining Hall and senior students and parents had Yoga classes in the concert Hall.

Great fun was had on the Wednesday afternoon as the whole school participated in a Wellbeing Quiz. Students had to identify their teachers from baby pictures, there were tricky puzzles to figure out and classes had to work together to try and solve Ms. Shannon's tricky dingbat picture clues.

NEW PICNIC TABLES



Following hot on the heels of Wellbeing Week, our Student Council (*pictured above*) wanted to make the most of this time of year. They put forward the idea of getting some picnic tables for our grounds so that girls can talk and laugh with their friends at lunchtime in the glow of a sunny day.

With funding from The Loreto Trust and the skilled craftsmanship of Dublin 12 Men's Sheds, we have a set of lovely new tables where everyone can take a moment and share time with lovely people.

FIRST YEAR HISTORY



First Year History students spent much of their final term studying medieval history. Students actively engaged in a study of castles in very different ways. Ms. Cullen's Higgins

class made fantastic models of stone castles, while Mr. Farrell's Childers class had a very informative trip to Drimnagh Castle.



DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

In the early hours of May 10th, over 35 senior students and their teachers gathered at Phoenix Park to join the Pieta House Darkness into Light walk. Yet again, Ms. Ryan gathered an enthusiastic bunch of early risers to raise awareness and funds for the charity that helps prevent suicide and provides a therapeutic support service to anyone who is self harming. Have a look at our girls' sleepy, but smiley faces below.



LEARNING THROUGH TRIPS



Students always remember the trips that they went on in school much more than the regular day-to-day learning they do in classrooms. There were a great variety of

educational trips for students of all year groups. Senior Art students went on a trip to Newgrange to study the art of our Neolithic ancestors. 3rd Year French students visited the IFI to watch a movie *en Francais*. CSPE classes visited places like the Criminal Courts of Justice to experience how a real trial works and Dog's Trust to learn more about animal welfare. You can read about many of the TY trips on the next page.

LEAVING CERT APPLIED

We are delighted to be reintroducing Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) from the start of the 2019-2020 school year. The Leaving Cert Applied is an alternative Leaving Cert which engages in more practical learning and alternative subjects from traditional Leaving Cert. It also will have a heavy emphasis on work experience to properly prepare our students for the world of work after they graduate.

DAFFODIL DAY



There was a coffee morning held in the staff room in March to raise funds for Daffodil Day, and throughout the day itself, 5th year students went around the classrooms selling the yellow flowers to raise funds for The Irish Cancer Society. A total of €315 was raised.

DEBATING & PUBLIC SPEAKING

We were delighted for the second year in a row to host nine different Loreto schools in the Inter-Loreto Junior Debates in early January. The day was a terrific success thanks to the brilliant organisation of Ms. Ruth Murphy.



Aishah Buzakhar and Ciara Lyons made it into the knock out stages of the UCD Junior Schools Debating Competition in January. They were in the top 32 teams in the competition after

the three preliminary rounds. They worked incredibly hard to get to this level of the competition. Ifunanya Chukwuewuzie and Chloe Pingol from TY (pictured above) made it to the final of the Inter Loreto Senior Debates where they were runner's up in their semi-final and then qualified for the final. The girls debated brilliantly.

3rd Year student Ekenenna Chukwuewuzie yet again



performed with distinction at the Leinster Finals of the National Mace Debates.

Competing at the event on Saturday, 2nd March, Ekenenna was awarded "Best Speaker" and qualified for the All-Ireland Final in Bettystown in April where she competed with distinction.

Fellow 3rd year student Becky Mbu performed very strongly as well, narrowly missing out on a place in the national finals.

The year rounded off on May 3rd with the Inter-Loreto Public Speaking Competition at which four 1st year and three 4th year students spoke. Amany Alzoubi McKevitt and Ifunanya Chukwuewuzie received great praise.

TRANSITION YEAR

The three fourth year classes certainly made the most of the second half of their Transition Year. 2019 began with a bang with three sell-out nights of their Musical, "Legally Blonde". They kept the momentum going into other areas of the course including work experience, Street Law, Bridge 21 (in association with Trinity College), TY Scholars of Ireland (in association with Queen's University, Belfast), Healthy Living Programmes, empowering workshops from Soar, Work Experience and Religion trips to the local mosque and to Knock. 13 students completed Grade 3 Drama exams in association with the Leinster School of Music & Drama Outreach Programme. Have a look at some of their experiences below.



HERO DAY

The 4th yr students engaged in a study of their local community and its history with the help of Catherine Scuffil, who is local historian in residence in Dublin City Council. This study ended in great appreciation on 2nd May with a Hero Day celebration organised by their TY coordinator, Ms. Byrne. Students invited the heroes in their lives to come to the school to enjoy some afternoon tea, some songs and some stories about why they mean so much to them. There were Mammies, Nannies, Aunties, Teachers and other people from the community about whom the students think so much.

PUPIL POWER

For many years, campaigners with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and their families have been lobbying the government and the Health Service Executive to try to get the drug Spinraza available to patients in Ireland. This drug can have a life changing impact on people with SMA and greatly enhance their quality of life and even life expectancy itself. On two occasions this year, Transition Year Students went to Kildare Street to campaign outside Dáil Éireann to try to make this drug available so that their classmate, Lauren Whelan could avail of its benefits. It was with great joy on June 11th that we learned that Health Minister Simon Harris TD and the HSE have now decided to make Spinraza available and Lauren can avail of it very soon.



CLIMATE STRIKES



Over 50 students from Loreto College, Crumlin Road joined an 11,000 strong crowd of young people on Friday, 15th March outside Leinster House to pressure the government to take greater action on climate change.

The enthusiastic students, accompanied by members of staff raised their voices in the hopes of saving the planet and those who live on it.

The students' attendance at the Climate Strike was just part of a number of simple measures that the Student Council wanted to promote in our school to help combat climate change. From recycling our

plastic bottles, turning off lights when not in use and turning our mobile phones to low power mode to avoid excessive charging, pupils realised that small changes, made by our entire school community can make a real difference.

Student council members Keiffer Cortez and Sophie O'Connor (pictured above) featured in an interview on the RTE website by Education Correspondent, Emma O'Kelly.

JCSP Students in Tayto Park

The 14th of May was a beautiful sunny day for the Junior Certificate Students Programme (JCSP) classes who marked a year of hard work with a trip to Tayto Park. The 2nd and 3rd year students have engaged in several programmes throughout the year to focus on literacy and numeracy. They have participated in reading programmes, speech and drama classes and practical number based activities all around the school to demonstrate the value of language and numbers in everyday life. The trip to Tayto Park ended the year off nicely.



CAREER GUIDANCE

Over the last six months, our guidance Counsellor Ms. Clifford has invited many guests into the school to speak to senior students on their options regarding their futures. We all know January can be a downer of a month, so Aware visited the school to speak to all 5th and 6th year students. Their "Beat the Blues" workshop was full of helpful tips and practical advice on how to deal with everyday hassles of life. College visits included one from St. Kevin's College before the Mock exams, while Inchicore College spoke to all 6th years on March 4th. A week later, 5th years enjoyed a presentation from NUI Maynooth. In April, a speaker from Liberties College spoke to all 6th years and just before the Easter break, a representative from Rathmines College spoke to all 5th & 6th years. Digital Futures (DELL) spoke to all 5th and 6th years on April 29th.

“It All Works Out” as 5th Years claim 2nd Prize



A long day for our 5th years travelling to Tralee, Co. Kerry on 3rd May was richly rewarded.

The 5th year students, Religion and English teachers were awarded second prize for their entry into the “All Works Out Live Life film competition” run by the Donal Walsh Foundation

The competition is a national contest open to young people and groups with the aim of promoting positive thinking and living. The competition is run in memory of the Kerry teenager Donal Walsh. Our 5th years set off at 7am from Heuston Station to attend the final of the competition in the Omniplex Cinema, Tralee.

Individuals and schools had entered films for the competition and Loreto Crumlin’s video was well reviewed.

You can view their brilliant and moving entry video “Rise Up” on our YouTube page and on our website.



TRINITY ACCESS PROGRAMME AWARDS

The Trinity Access Programme Awards took place in Trinity College on May 8th. Congratulations to the Award winners:

Academic Award - Amany Alzoubi McKevitt (1st yr)

Academic Award - Aaishah Buzakhar (3rd yr)

Academic Award - Najma Elbahja (5th yr)

Mentoring Award - Ciara White (6th yr)

Mentoring Award - Robyn Kinsella (3rd yr)

Salter Sterling Medal - Chloe Pingol (4th yr)

The award winners are pictured right with graduate of the class of 2015, Dove Curran.



GARDA YOUTH AWARD WINNER – Erica Kiernan



We at Loreto College, Crumlin Road would like to warmly congratulate Erica Kiernan, graduate of the class of 2018. At the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght on Thursday, 28th February, Erica was the deserving winner of the Special Achievement Award and she was presented with her award by Superintendent Kevin Gralton.

Erica won the award for her voluntary work with the Order of Malta. Each Sunday, Erica brings



mass in her community. She also volunteers during the week with people with disabilities, helping them to participate in an art class.

She featured in national newspaper The Sun and was widely praised for her inspiring words: *"People don't remember what your Instagram page looked like or what length your hair was, but how you treated them and how you made them feel."*

GAISCE



There was great enthusiasm from the 22 students who undertook the Bronze Gaisce award this year. Ms. Ryan invited any Transition Year student interested in participating in the award which challenges young people to develop themselves in four key areas: Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey. The girls engaged enthusiastically in the four areas to develop themselves and give of themselves to people in their community. The year rounded off with the Adventure journey which they undertook over 25km in the beautiful surroundings of Glendalough over two days. The girls have the opportunity to push on to the Silver Award if they choose next year.

MAKING MUSIC

Five of our instrumental string players, Odera, Ifunanya and Ekenenna Chukwuewuzie, Jennifer Idiahoke and Sara Jones played with the Scoil Una Naofa Orchestra in the National Concert Hall on February 2nd as part of the "24th Festival of Youth Orchestras. Meanwhile, for the fourth consecutive term, students from Loreto College had the opportunity to take part in the Liber8 Music project in BMM Music College in association with the Digital Hub. The students received 8 weeks of free tuition in instruments such as Guitar, Bass, Drums, Vocals and Sound Recording and Design culminating in a showcase concert in Bimm College on May 15th.



BASKETBALL

In the light of success in recent years for our school in Basketball, it is encouraging to know that a new breed of young players is coming through. Our Minor basketball team trained hard throughout the year and in March, it paid off. They qualified for the Loreto Final where they were unfortunately beaten by Loreto Beaufort. Here they are pictured (left) with their coaches Niamh White and Claire Quinn-Nealon (both past pupils)

Meanwhile in other sporting news, a group of girls braved one of the wettest days of the year to participate in the Loreto Athletics event in Santry on 9th May.

FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2019



Our Graduation Ceremony was a lovely occasion on May 22nd as we bid a fond farewell to the 6th Year students for whom the world of further study and work awaits. The ceremony which was held in our school hall had a fine balance of joy and spirituality. The theme the girls chose for their ceremony was "Behind you, all your memories. Before you, all your dreams. Around you, all who love you. Within you, all you need. There were symbols and songs throughout the service that highlighted this lovely theme. Head girl Ciara White (pictured left) gave a very moving and honest speech in which she addressed teachers, parents and her fellow students. To her fellow 6th years she said *"In some way we may feel or think that we are immortal, but we're young, we're supposed to feel that way, we're graduating! The future is, will be and should be bright, but,*



like our brief six years at Loreto Crumlin, what makes life valuable is that it doesn't last forever. What makes it precious is that it ends." To all the parents and teachers in the room Ciara had forthright honest words: *"There is a lot of expectation for us students to do well in school or life, to get good points in our Leaving Cert and to push on another 4 or so years and claim a university degree. Sometimes a sense of under-achievement is formed when such things aren't completed. There is also competition between parents for their children to be the best! However, what is honestly better than your child being truly happy?"*

At the start of May, the 6th years kindly laid on a beautiful lunch for their teachers with the help of their Year Head Ms. Horgan and Glanmore Foods. Students and teachers gathered in the Concert Hall

and shared stories, memories, laughs and even a slice of graduation cake. It was a lovely occasion to sign off on the girls' time in Loreto. We wish them every success in their Leaving Cert results and beyond.



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR...

-  **New School App launching in August**
-  **New School Facebook Page coming soon**
-  **New School Website launching in August**
-  **Keep up to date on all back to school dates and 5th Year Booklist by visiting www.loretocrumlin.ie or visiting our Twitter account @Loreto_Crumlin**

